

03/07/00

03-09-00

A

+

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/05 (12/97)

Approved for use through 09/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

Total Pages

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Robert Grosz

Express Mail Label No.

EL466529868US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Box Patent Application

Washington, DC 20231

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages **29**]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets **4**]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages **33**]
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
- i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a
copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b,
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by
reference therein.

6. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☒ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☒ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: **09 / 1 100,726****18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Labelor ☒ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

NAME

**Alfred M. Walker
225 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747**

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

US

TELEPHONE

631-361-8737

FAX

631-361-8792

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

Alfred M. Walker, P.C.

Attorney at Law

Admitted to New York State Bar
and the United States Patent Office

225 Old Country Road
Melville, New York 11747-2712
Tel. No. (631) 361-8737
Fax No. (631) 361-8792

March 7, 2000

Commissioner of Patents
Box New Patent Applications
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Applicant Robert Grosz
Continuation-in-part of prior application # 09/100,726
THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY

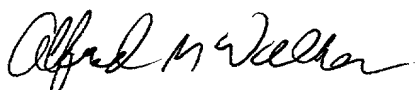
Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find Continuation-in-part patent application, including Specification, Claims, Abstract, 4 sheets of drawings (Figures 1-5) and Declaration, Small Entity Statement for small business concern.

The filing fee of \$612.00 includes the base fee of \$345.00, plus \$189.00 for 21 extra Claims and \$78.00 for two extra independent Claims.

Kindly acknowledge receipt by returning the enclosed postcard.

Respectfully submitted,



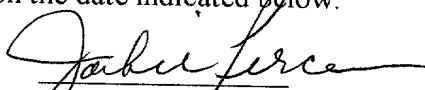
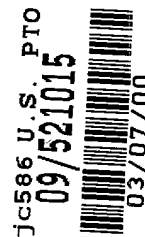
Alfred M. Walker
Reg. No. 29, 983
Attorney for Applicant

Encl.

Certificate of Mailing

I certify that the above noted utility patent application was sent by Express Mail No. EL 466 529 868 05 in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231" on the date indicated below.

March 7, 2000


Jackie Percan

APPLICANT/PATENTEE: Robert Grosz
SERIAL NO./PATENT NO.: To be assigned
FILED OR ISSUED: To be assigned
FOR: THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)) INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled **THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY**, the application which is filed herewith.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

FULL NAME: Jewelmatic, Inc.
ADDRESS: 111 West 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90014

(SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in the loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein on my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

DATE: February 8, 2000


Robert Grosz

APPLICANT: Robert Grosz
SERIAL NO./PATENT NO. TO BE ASSIGNED
FILED OR ISSUED: TO BE ASSIGNED
FOR: THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED
GOLD JEWELRY

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (c)) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: Jewelmatic, Inc.
ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 111 West 7th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled **THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY** described in the specification filed herewith.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

NAME: (None)
ADDRESS:

(INDIVIDUAL) (SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN) (NONPROFIT ORGANIZ.)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28 (b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING:

Robert Grosz

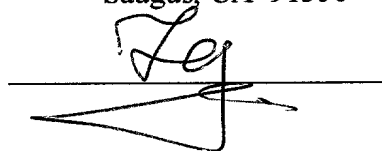
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER:

President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING:

22906 Saugus Place 190
Saugus, CA 91350

DATE: February 8, 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grosz', is written over a horizontal line.

a:vstmtco

THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY

RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is a continuation-in-part of application
serial no. 09/100,726, filed June 19, 1998.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to durable precious metal
jewelry.

BACKGROUND

15 In recent years due to market acceptance of products having
less gold content (ie. lighter weight than solid gold jewelry), the
U.S. jewelry industry has gone through many changes. The latest
trend is using the combination of silver and gold in making the
jewelry objects, thus achieving a less expensive product by virtue
of the fact that gold is priced about 70 times more than silver.
Hollow wire or tubing with thin walls has been used for over 50
20 years. The widespread use of hollow rope chains and their
popularity over the last 20 years has spawned several patents in
this area.

25 The United States is the largest market for rope chains (800
million annually), and hollow rope chains in particular. Price
wars have driven the producers to discover new ways of making a
genuine gold product with thinner and thinner walls.

With the only criteria being to maximize economic price, poor quality and durability are the general result of making thin hollow gold rope chains. For example, hollow rope chains made of .009 - .014 inch diameter wire with a .002-.003 inch wall thickness and
5 having a weight of 1-2 grams/foot represent a significant portion of the U.S. rope chain market. The customer return rate of such hollow rope chains is tremendous. Some of those brittle hollow gold rope chains never reach the retail stores, since the chain is damaged in handling and shipping. Such hollow rope chains have a
10 very short life; the smallest stretch or pressure on the .002-.003 inch wall thickness can damage the fragile hollow rope chains.

Most of the hollow tubing or wire products use copper, steel, plastic or aluminum rod or wires as a temporary installation core at some stage in the manufacturing process. The purpose of such
15 rods or wires is to temporarily support the thin walls of the outer gold tubing or to help coil or form the links of the gold product. These non-precious core materials are disposed of by an acid or caustic soda process at a later stage in manufacturing, resulting in toxic effluent.

20 Moreover, the hollow gold tubing from which hoop earrings and bangle bracelets are made presents great difficulties in coiling the tube. To prevent the thin hollow gold wall from collapsing, the tube is filled with fine sand prior to the coiling process. Still, damage is common during the coiling process. Due to such
25 problems, a minimum practical wall thickness for this product remains .004-.005 inch.

Background art includes multicolor chains of two different precious metals, such as yellow gold and white gold. The first multicolor chains, which were fashionable about fifteen years ago, were made by a specially developed machine which automatically fed
5 different colored wires alternately to the assembly process. In another process, electroplating the chain with a different colored alloy and diamond cutting the chain to expose the inner alloy produced two-color chains.

U.S. Patent No. 5,425,228 of Hillel describes a multi-color
10 faceted rope chain and fabrication method. By using metal alloy tubes of different colors, thereby creating overlying layers of different colors in the cross section of the wire, the various layers can be exposed by diamond cutting the chain to different depths. In diamond cutting, a jewelry chain is wrapped around a
15 lathe and cut by a stationary knife held against the edges of the rotating chain. This is a much improved process compared to the plating process for producing multicolor chains. However, Hillel '228, in creating a multicolor chain, makes reference to rope chains made of links produced by wrapping a thin sheet of precious
20 metal around a circular rod wire or core of the second metal of the second color using the same techniques as are now used in producing the hollow links for hollow link rope chain. This method therefore limits the outer layer of the gold sheet to 0.0025 inch or thicker, as noted in Hillel '228.

25 In the non-precious metal chain costume jewelry market, so called gold filled articles exist, such as noted in U.S. Patent No.

3,778,238 of Tyler et al for a composite metal article having a superficial gold over layer. However, the interior of the costume jewelry article contains non-precious metals, such as copper alloys.

5 Furthermore, as noted on pages 5 and 8 of "The Gold Filled Story", a 1982 trade publication of the Gold Filled Association, the making of gold filled article is an expensive process involving both pressure and heat. To make a gold filled sheet, a layer of karat gold of proper thickness is fused to a suitable supporting copper alloy. Then under pressure and very exacting controls of heat and time, the two metals are fused together so that the bond between gold and supporting metal is flawless and permanent.

10 With a similar technology, gold filled wire is made by inserting a core of copper alloy into a gold cylinder and then they are fused together under controlled heat and pressure, so that a single round rod is made.

15 The rod is drawn repeatedly through powerful wire reducing mills and drawing die. This process requires special equipment for the bonding of the two metals together, and heavy rolling mills capable of handling the heavy rod.

20 In contrast to the gold filled prior art, as it will be disclosed in the Summary and Detailed Description of the present invention herein, by experimenting with silver, it has been found that no heat is required for completing a bonding between the gold and silver, therefore a more shorter technology can be developed for making a two metal wire or two metal stamped jewelry piece.

A relatively much thinner tubing than the rod in the gold filled application can be formed while a core of silver wire is being introduced. In this way the starting point of the wire making process is the use of a thicker wire, which can be drawn through drawing dies, and the rolling mill can be avoided as well the heating process.

As defined by the trade definition of a "gold filled" product in the aforementioned 1982 publication of The Gold Filled Association, in order to label a product "gold filled", in the bonding process heat and pressure has to be present, in order to form a permanent bonding between the two metals, namely, gold and the non precious alloy.

Mechanical attachment of a thin layer of gold, such as in a gold filled product, is allowed to be marked as "gold filled", if a layer of at least 10 Karat gold is permanently bonded by heat and pressure to one or more surfaces of supporting metal, thence rolled or drawn to a prescribed thickness.

The Karat gold layer must be at least 1/20th by weight of the total combined gold and base metal.

Other non-precious metal articles are made by electroplating, such as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,377,448 of Kohl. The electroplating of gold jewelry is a process in which thin layers of gold can be deposited on the surface of a non precious metal by boiling with heat in a caustic chemical bath.

A product can be marked as "electroplated" when at least an equivalent of 7 millionth of an inch of fine gold is deposited on

the metal.

In contrast to electroplating, such as in Kohl '448, the present invention proposes to achieve a thin wall product utilizing less expensive procedures than the gold filled process available for the small manufacturer and to create Karat and non Karat jewelry wire or rod products, made only with precious metals such as gold, silver and platinum.

It is safe to assume that in the gold filled process, if the copper alloy is substituted with silver, the process of bonding silver with gold permanently with controlled heat and pressure would be able to produce the wire or rod the present invention has in objective.

However, the present invention does not need such controlled heat and pressure, other than annealing during the process, nor does it need the heat and caustic chemical bath of electroplating.

Furthermore, it has not been proposed in the prior art to utilize a precious metal core with an outer layer of another precious metal, such as gold, in a jewelry rod or wire.

Therefore, the prior art discloses disadvantages and cumbersome heated and pressurized processes for creating thin walled gold filled and electroplated jewelry products. Furthermore, when hollow jewelry products are thus created, the walls are fragile and easily damaged in the finishing processes, such as diamond cutting, or during shipment.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

An object of this invention is to create a jewelry product having a lower gold content than hollow gold tube products currently produced, with the strength of solid wire products.

5 A further object of this invention is to make a rod or wire of a precious metal, with an outer layer of Karat gold and a core of silver.

10 Another object of this invention is to produce a rod or wire having a gold outer layer under one thousandth of an inch thick with a silver reinforcing core.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a practical cost-effective manufacturing process to produce a precious metal wire or rod product.

15 It is yet another object of this invention to provide a rod or wire having a gold outer layer with a process at ambient temperatures, without excessive heat, pressure or caustic chemical baths.

20 It is another object of this invention to provide a hollow tube with a silver inner layer and a thin outer layer of gold or platinum by an efficient process.

It is yet another object to provide a metal plate for jewelry stamping with a silver inner layer and a thin outer layer of gold or platinum.

25 It is still yet another object to improve over the disadvantages of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

In keeping with the foregoing objects and others which may become apparent, the present invention includes a tubular gold jewelry wire item having a longitudinally extending thin outer layer of gold and a longitudinally extending inner structural core of a suitably soft and yet rigid material, such as a precious metal, preferably silver.

In another embodiment, a metal plate with an inner silver layer and a thin outer layer of gold is stamped into non-tubular jewelry items such as earring pieces or bracelet charm pieces; which may be flat or three dimensional, depending upon how they are stamped.

The jewelry wire item includes a thin gold outer layer having a predetermined thickness which is from about .0001 inch, up to about .002 inch thick, preferably from about .0001 to about .001 inch thick. The silver core is securely bonded to the thin gold outer layer of the jewelry item.

A typical item of gold jewelry of the present invention is made by first rolling a sheet of gold into a thickness of from about .009 to about 0.10 inch thick. Then the gold sheet is trimmed and passed through a slitter to trim it into a gold strip, having a width equal to the circumference of a gold tube to be formed.

The trimmed gold strip is wound onto a spool and the trimmed gold strip is fed from the spool through a roll former having one or more pairs of rollers and guides which act in a plurality of

roll forming steps. For example, the trimmed gold strip is flattened and then formed first into a channel-shape and then the channel-shaped gold strip is forced into a U-shape. The silver core material is introduced from a spool onto the center of the U-shaped gold strip. The combined silver core material and U-shaped gold strip member is fed through a pair of pressure rollers for putting pressure on the sides of the U-shaped gold strip, thereby partly closing the gold strip circumferentially around the silver core material.

Then, the partly-closed gold tube containing silver core material is fed through a set of rollers for completing the circumferential closing of the gold strip into a tube surrounding the core material, and leaving a seam at the top of the gold tube.

The cored gold tube is then fed through a pair of guide rollers for precisely locating the seam for welding, and the seam-located cored gold tube is fed through a welder for welding the seam.

The seam-welded cored gold tube is then fed through exit rollers.

Thereafter, the seam-welded cored gold tube is further fed through a wire-drawing die at least twice to reduce its diameter and to pressure-lock the core with the gold-tube outer layer. This creates a solid wire of a thin gold outer tube in a secure adhesive contact with the core material.

The cored gold wire is then fed through diameter-reducing wire drawing dies, so that the gold outer-layer thickness is reduced

proportionally to the diameter reduction of the cored gold wire from before to after being subjected to the diameter-reduction wire drawing dies.

The cored gold wire is continuously fed at ambient temperatures through the diameter-reducing wire drawing dies until a diameter reduction of the silver cored gold wire of from about 50% to about 60% has been achieved. Finally, the silver cored gold wire is preferably annealed at a temperature of about 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

The welder may be a laser welding head, a tungsten inert gas (TIG) welder, or a plasma welder.

The resultant silver cored gold wire is durable and economic in price, and may be produced as a jewelry chain, a rope chain, a diamond cut chain, a diamond cut rope chain, an earring, a diamond cut earring, a bangle, a diamond cut bangle or other similar jewelry pieces. In an optional embodiment the pressure locked plates can be stamped into jewelry forms without being formed into jewelry wires.

In a further optional embodiment the silver cored gold wire is produced by producing a sandwich of gold and silver layers joined by soldering and then formed into a silver cored gold wire or a gold-silver plate which can be stamped.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention can best be understood in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figures 1A through 1G are schematic illustrations of the product forming process of the present invention wherein,

Figure 1A shows the roll forming line; and,

Figure 1B through 1 G show various product cross sectional views at various process points along the roll forming line of Figure 1A;

Figure 2A is a cross sectional size comparison of a gold plate at the start of the product forming process as in Figures 1A through 1G;

Figure 2B is a cross sectional size comparison of a gold tube over a silver cored during the product forming process thereof;

Figure 2C is a cross sectional size comparison of the gold tube locked to the silver core during the product forcing process thereof;

Figure 2D is a cross sectional size comparison of the final wire product during the product forming process thereof;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the gold tube product with a hollow silver core;

Figure 4 is a process flow chart of one embodiment for the product forming process of the present invention; and,

Figure 5 is a process flow chart of an alternative product forming process of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Existing hollow gold chains have the goal of providing the same aesthetic appearance as their solid counterpart made from the

same outside diameter wire. With a wall thickness of a minimum .002 to .003 inch, the existing chains have between 30 to 45% of the gold content of a similar solid chain.

In contrast, the goal of the present invention is to use a solid silver core with a much thinner outer gold layer, such as no greater than .002 inch, preferably about .001 inch or less in thickness, to provide a superior product in terms of strength and durability at a significantly lower cost due to reduced gold content. It has been found through experimentation that using a soft metal, such as silver, as a structural inner core, with a gold outer layer, and drawing the combined silver filled gold tube through dyes will result in a significant wall reduction of the outer layer in a predictable manner.

The result is a solid tubular gold jewelry wire which has an outer precious metal layer and an inner solid precious metal rod core, which is produced by the process of first feeding at ambient air temperature a solid precious metal rod core into an open, longitudinally extending precious metal outer tube. Then the open longitudinally extending precious metal tube is closed, and fed through a wire drawing die at ambient temperature reducing its thickness and pressure locking the precious metal core to the precious metal outer tube, thereby providing a solid wire comprised of the outer precious metal layer in a secure adhesive contact with the precious metal rod core.

For earrings or bangles, the thickness is .004 inch or less. As shown in drawing Figures 1A-1G, to form silver filled gold tube

1, first a karat gold outer layer, after casting, is rolled into a thin sheet 2 not less than .009-.010 inch thickness. A slitter cuts gold sheet 2 to one having a width equal to the circumference of the outer gold tube to be formed.

5 For example, Figures 1A through 1G show a roll forming process to produce silver core gold item 1. A six or seven pass roll forming machine having pairs of rollers, and guides between them, gradually forms the gold sheet into a tube. Trimmed gold sheet 2 is fed from spool 1 into the first pair of rollers 3, 4 which cuts
10 the sheet 12 shown in cross section in Figure 1B. Rollers 5, 6 form sheet 12 into gold member 13 having the profile shown thereat. Rollers 7, 8 further form gold sheet 13 into a "U"- shaped member 14 of Figure 1D.

At this point, silver wire 10 from spool 9 is guided by guide
15 member 11 into the center of U-shaped gold member 14, as the combination enters roller pair 16, 17. These latter rollers 16, 17 put pressure on the sides to draw wire 10 through while closing member 15 around silver core 10, as shown in Figure 1E. Roller pair 18, 19 continues to close gold member 15 into closed
20 tube 20 around silver core 10, with a seam 27 at the top as shown in Figure 1F. Guide rollers 22 then precisely locate seam 27 for welding by welder 21. This may be a tungsten inert gas (TIG) welder, a plasma welder or a laser welding head.

Roller pair 23, 24 feeds the final gold wire member 25 out of
25 this process step, as a gold tube with a loose silver core as shown in Figure 1G.

Figure 2B shows an enlarged cross section of gold member 25 from Figure 1G. A slight gap 28 exists between silver core 10 and gold outer layer 2a.

Figure 2A shows an end cross section of gold sheet 2 before it is formed into a tube. As shown in Figure 2A, gold sheet 2 has a thickness P_w and the width is equal to B times diameter T_i of round silver filled gold member 1, which is equal to the circumference of the gold tube with diameter T_i .

After drawing the roll formed gold tube 1 with silver core 10 two times through a wire drawing die, the resulting gold silver core gold wire tube 1 will be .006 to .008 inch smaller in diameter, as shown in Figure 2C, where T_f is slightly smaller than T_i . This drawing process locks silver core 10 to the outer gold layer 2a in such a close fit as characterized by intermolecular forces, so that it will now behave like a solid wire of a single material. The subsequent drawing of the gold silver wire progresses to a final size wire having a gold outer layer thickness reduced proportionally from the starting wall thickness P_w with the same proportion as the reduction of the diameter T_f to the final wire diameter W_f .

Figure 2D shows a final wire cross section with diameter W_f and gold thickness G_f .

In the illustrations of Figures 2A-2B, the overall ratio from T_f to W_f is about 10:1, to illustrate the cross sectional area reduction, while still permitting annotation. A more typical ratio is in the range of 20:1.

Several different wire sizes with a variety of gold thicknesses can be achieved. The following formulas will be used to calculate a given final wire size and gold thickness:

Outside tube diameter as roll formed..... T_i

5 Outside tube diameter after locking silver core to gold tube..... $T_f = T_i - .008$

Final wire diameter..... W_f

Diameter reduction ratio..... $R = T_f / W_f$

Initial plate thickness before rolling.... P_w

10 Final gold thickness..... G_f

Diameter reduction ratio..... $R = P_w / G_f$

As an example, suppose one prefers to have a .018 inches diameter silver core wire with a gold thickness of .0005 inches. If one starts with a gold sheet thickness of .010 inches, the initial starting tube diameter can be calculated as follows:

$$R = P_w / G_f = .010 / .0005 = 20$$

$$R = T_f / W_f = T_f / .018 = 20$$

$$T_f = .018 \times 20 = .360 \text{ inch (9.14mm)}$$

$$T_i = .360 + .008 = .368 \text{ inch, the starting tube diameter.}$$

20 After a 50-60% diameter reduction of the wire, an annealing at 1200 degrees F is required. In the manner described above, the present invention permits the fabrication of silver filled gold wire made of a gold outer layer of from .0005 inches up to about .002 inches thickness and having a silver core.

25 The process described above can also be used to produce bangles and earrings with a gold layer of .0005 inch up to .004

inches over a hollow silver core. The cross section of such a material is shown in Figure 3 with inner silver tubular core 30. For practical reasons in the case of earrings and bangle products, to achieve the desired gold layer of gold tube 1a, silver core 30 has to be introduced in the welded gold tube only after the wall of the gold tube has been reduced to the limits allowed by present technologies (such as from .006 inches to about .007 inches). This is necessary due to the fact that to get the final tubing of 2-3mm diameter with a wall of .0005 inches thickness, starting with a .009 inch wall, one should have an initial gold tube diameter of 36mm, which is totally impractical. A 12-15mm diameter tubing with a .009 inch, gold thickness achieves a final gold layer of .0015 inches at from about 2-2.5 mm diameter tube with a silver core. To achieve a thinner layer of gold, the starting gold tube wall has to be less than .009 inches.

Figure 4 is a process flow chart showing, in a concise fashion, the process steps described above.

An alternate process or method which is more efficient at producing larger diameter product such as for bangles and earrings is presented. Either a tubular hollow core (as shown in Figure 3) or a solid core product can be produced in this manner. The outer precious metal can be platinum, instead of gold, with a gold or silver inner core.

In this process, which is concisely presented in the flow chart of Figure 5, the first step is to roll a gold plate to the desired starting thickness. Here, the process example is of a

product with a silver core and a thin gold outer layer. A silver plate is rolled to its thicker starting thickness. A sandwich is formed of the gold plate, a thin layer of silver solder, and the silver plate; this is clamped between steel plates and heated in an oven to melt the silver solder. The resulting bonded gold/silver plate is rolled down to the desired final thickness with intermittent annealing.

After this, the plate is slit to the desired width and stamped into a desired jewelry form or is fed into a roll forming machine to form a tube. The seam of the tube is welded by an appropriate technique such as TIG or laser welding.

If a solid core is desired, solid silver wire is fed into the center either during the roll forming process step or after the tube is welded. The tube is then drawn down to the desired size with intermittent annealing steps.

A numerical example of the process will more clearly describe the steps involved. Suppose the objective is to produce a 6.2mm (1/4inch) diameter tube with a .001 inch gold layer over a .009 inch silver layer. A 1mm (.039 inch) gold plate and a 10mm (.39 inch) silver plate with a .001 inch silver solder layer in between is clamped between two steel plates and placed in an oven. The oven can either be a controlled atmosphere electric oven or an open flame gas oven. The sandwich of gold-solder-silver is brought to the melting point of the silver solder which is approximately 640 Celsius (1210 degrees Fahrenheit).

The gold-silver plate is then rolled down to 0.25mm (.010

inch) with intermittent annealing at approximately 540 Celsius. At this step, the gold layer will be approximately 0.025mm (.001 inch) and the silver layer will be about 0.225mm (.009 inch). The gold-silver plate is then slit to a width of 19.5mm (.766 inch) and fed
5 to a tube roll forming machine and welded. If at this time a smaller tube with a thinner outer gold layer is desired, the tube of 6.2mm diameter can be drawn to a smaller size with a resulting decrease in wall thickness and, consequently, a thinner layer of gold.

10 Depending on the final diameter of the product, either the originally described process or this process will be advantageous. For sizes under 1mm (.039 inch) diameter, the first gold-silver core process is more advantageous. For sizes over 1mm (.039 inch) diameter, the second method, gold-silver solder-silver plate, and
15 silver core will be preferred. The savings in labor cost due to the number of drawings and annealing steps required are the governing factors in deciding which method should be used.

Earring and bangles made of tubing due to functional characteristics have to stay hollow. Therefore the following
20 alternative manufacturing methods are used to produce hollow thin walled silver filled gold jewelry.

For example, as also noted in Figure 3, a gold-silver plate, where the gold is soldered to the silver, is rolled to a thickness where the gold layer becomes less than .002 inch and where the
25 silver layer is about .007-.009 inch. It is roll formed and welded into a tube.

The tube then is drawn to the required size to produce earring or bangles, etc.

The following is a numerical example to produce a 6.2mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch) diameter tube having a .001 inch gold layer and a .009 inch silver layer.

A gold plate of 1mm (.039 inch) and a silver plate of 10mm (3.9 inch) with a .001 inch silver solder in between the gold and silver plate is clamped together in a sandwich between two steel plates and is placed in a oven. The oven can be a controlled atmosphere electric oven, or open flame gas oven. Then, the sandwich of silver-solder-gold is brought to the melting point of the silver solder, approximately 640 degree Celsius (1210 degree Fahrenheit).

The gold-silver plate is then rolled down to a thickness of 0.25mm(.010 inch) with intermittent annealing at approximately 540 degree Celsius.

At this time the gold layer is approximately 0.025mm (.001 inch) and the silver layer is 0.225mm (.009 inch). The gold-silver plate is processed trough a slitter machine to get the right width of the plate of 19.5mm (7.66 inch). The plate is then fed in the tube roll forming machine and welded.

If at this time a thinner gold layer is required, the tube of 6.2mm is drawn to a different outside diameter while the wall thickness is also reduced to a smaller size and subsequently a thinner layer of gold is produced.

The above numerical example can be modified to any parameters required by the final product.

The technology of a solid thin wall silver filled gold wire; depending on the final parameters, can be processed in the same way as described above, by making first a gold-silver and solder-silver sandwich, which is then formed into a tube, and during forming a solid silver wire is introduced as a core.

The combination of a silver-gold tube with the additional silver core is then drawn to the final required size. Dependent on the final size wire, one or the other method is utilized. For sizes under 1mm (.040 inch) of wire diameter the first method of a gold-silver core is more advantageous. For sizes bigger than 1mm (.040 inch) of wire diameter the second method of a gold-silver with solder-silver plate and silver core is preferred.

As noted before, in the process of Figure 5, after the gold-silver plate is slit, it can be optionally stamped into a desired jewelry form, or it can become a wire by the aforementioned described method.

The savings in labor cost due to the number of drawings and annealing required are the governing factors in deciding which method to be used.

The gold-silver with solder-silver plate can be used with any advantages over the previously described applications to substitute in the prior art of hollow rope chain manufacturing and to get a similar heavy wall product as the only gold hollow rope chain.

It is further known that other modifications may be made to

the present invention, without departing from the scope of the invention, as noted in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A solid tubular gold jewelry wire item comprising a longitudinally extending outer layer of gold and a longitudinally extending inner core of a precious metal, wherein said jewelry wire
5 item has a wall thickness of from about .0001 inch to no greater than .004 inch in thickness.

2. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein further said predetermined thickness of said gold outer layer is from about .0001 to about .002 inches in thickness.

10 3. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 2 wherein further said predetermined thickness of said gold outer layer is from about .0001 to about .001 inches thick.

4. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 2 wherein further said inner core comprises a precious metal alloy.

15 5. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 2 wherein further said inner core comprises silver.

6. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein further said core is securely bonded to said gold outer layer.

20 7. A method of making a solid tubular gold jewelry wire item having an outer gold layer of a predetermined thickness and an inner solid precious metal core, comprising the steps of:

a. rolling a sheet of gold into a thickness of from about .009 to about .010 inches thick;

25 b. trimming said gold sheet and passing said gold sheet through a slitter to trim said gold sheet into a gold strip having

a width equal to the circumference of said solid tubular jewelry wire item to be formed;

c. winding said trimmed gold strip onto a spool;

d. feeding said trimmed gold strip from said spool

5 through a roll former comprised of a plurality of pairs of rollers and guides in a plurality of roll forming steps further comprising:

1) forming said gold strip into a channel-shaped member;

10 2) forming said channel-shaped gold strip into a U-shaped member;

3) introducing precious metal core material from a spool onto a center of said U-shaped gold strip;

15 4) feeding said combination of said precious metal core material and said U-shaped gold member through a pair of pressure rollers for putting pressure on respective sides of said U-shaped gold strip, thereby partly closing said gold strip circumferentially around said precious metal core material into a partly-closed gold tube;

20 5) feeding said partly-closed gold tube containing said precious metal core material through a set of rollers for completing said circumferential closing of said gold strip into a gold tube surrounding said precious metal core material, and leaving a seam at a top of said gold tube;

25 6) feeding said cored gold tube through a pair of guide rollers for precisely locating said seam for welding;

7) feeding said seam-located cored gold tube through

a welder for welding said seam closed;

8) feeding said seam-welded cored gold tube through exit rollers; and then

5 e. feeding said seam-welded cored gold tube through a wire-drawing die at least twice to reduce its diameter and to pressure-lock said core with said gold-tube outer layer, thereby creating a solid wire comprised of a gold outer tube of a predetermined thickness in a secure adhesive contact with said precious metal core material; and then

10 f. feeding said cored gold wire through diameter-reducing wire drawing dies wherein said gold outer-layer thickness is reduced proportionally to a diameter reduction of said cored gold wire from before to after being subjected to said diameter-reduction wire drawing dies; and then

15 g. continuing to feed said cored gold wire through said diameter-reducing wire drawing dies until a diameter reduction of said cored gold wire of from about 50% to about 60% has been achieved; and then

20 h. annealing said cored gold wire at a temperature of about 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein further said precious metal core material comprises a precious metal alloy.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said precious metal core material comprises silver.

25 10. The method of Claim 7 wherein said finally produced cored solid tubular gold jewelry wire has a gold outer layer of from

about .0005 inches to about .002 inches in thickness.

11. The method of Claim 7 wherein further said welder comprises a laser welding head.

12. The method of Claim 7 wherein further said welder
5 comprises a tungsten inert gas (TIG) welder.

13. The method of Claim 7 wherein further said welder comprises a plasma welder.

14. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 5 wherein said item is a chain.

10 15. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 5 wherein said item is a rope chain.

16. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 5 wherein said item is a diamond cut chain.

17. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 5
15 wherein said item is a diamond cut rope chain.

18. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein said item is an earring.

19. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein said item is a diamond cut earring.

20 20. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein said item is a bangle.

21. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 1 wherein said item is a diamond cut bangle.

22. A solid tubular gold jewelry wire item having an outer
25 precious metal layer of from .0001 to about .002 inch thickness,
and an inner solid precious metal rod core, produced by the process

of:

a) feeding at ambient temperature a solid precious metal rod core into an open longitudinally extending precious metal outer tube;

5 b) closing said open longitudinally extending precious metal tube;

c) feeding said open longitudinally extending precious metal tube having said solid precious metal rod core through a wire drawing die at ambient temperature;

10 d) reducing its thickness and pressure;

e) taking said precious metal core to said precious metal tube; and,

thereby creating a solid wire comprised of said outer precious metal layer in a secure adhesive contact with said precious metal rod core.

23. A solid tubular gold jewelry wire item comprising a solid longitudinally extended outer layer of a precious metal and a solid longitudinally extended inner core of a soft precious metal soldered to the outer layer, wherein said jewelry wire item has a wall thickness of from about .0001 inch to no greater than .004 inch in thickness.

24. The solid tubular jewelry item of claim 23 where the said soft precious metal inner core is a tube.

25 25. The solid tubular jewelry item of claim 23 wherein said item is a chain.

26. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23

wherein said item is a rope chain.

27. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is a diamond cut chain.

5 28. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is a diamond cut rope chain.

29. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is an earring.

30. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is a diamond cut earring.

10 31. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is a bangle.

32. The solid tubular gold jewelry wire item of Claim 23 wherein said item is a diamond cut bangle.

15 33. The solid jewelry item of Claim 23 wherein said outer layer is gold.

34. The solid jewelry item of Claim 23 wherein said outer layer is platinum.

35. The solid jewelry item of Claim 23 wherein said inner layer is gold.

20 36. The solid jewelry item of Claim 23 wherein said inner layer is silver.

37. A solid gold jewelry item comprising an outer layer of gold and a solid inner layer of a soft precious metal joined to said outer layer, wherein said gold jewelry item includes said
25 outer layer of gold with a wall thickness of from about .0001 to no greater than .004 inches.

38. The solid gold jewelry item of claim 37 wherein further
said predetermined thickness of said gold outer layer is from
5 about .0001 to no greater than .002 inches thick.

39. The solid gold jewelry item of Claim 37 wherein said
item is a flat plate stamped to a predetermined shape.

40. The solid gold jewelry item of Claim 39 wherein said
item is an earring piece.

10 41. The solid gold jewelry item of Claim 39 wherein said
item is a bracelet charm.

ABSTRACT

A silver filled gold jewelry wire item includes an inner precious metal core, such as silver, and an outer gold layer. The outer gold layer has a predetermined thickness of from about .0001 inch to about .002 inch, preferably no more than .001 inch thick, which is much thinner than durable hollow wires of at least .004 inch in thickness or greater. A forming process draws a gold sheet strip into an open channel shaped member into which a solid silver core is placed at ambient temperatures. The open channel shaped member is closed by further rollers at ambient temperatures and welding of a seam when closed about the solid core. The resultant solid tubular gold jewelry wire item resists damage from diamond cutting knives, and can be used to create jewelry rope chains, earrings and bangles.

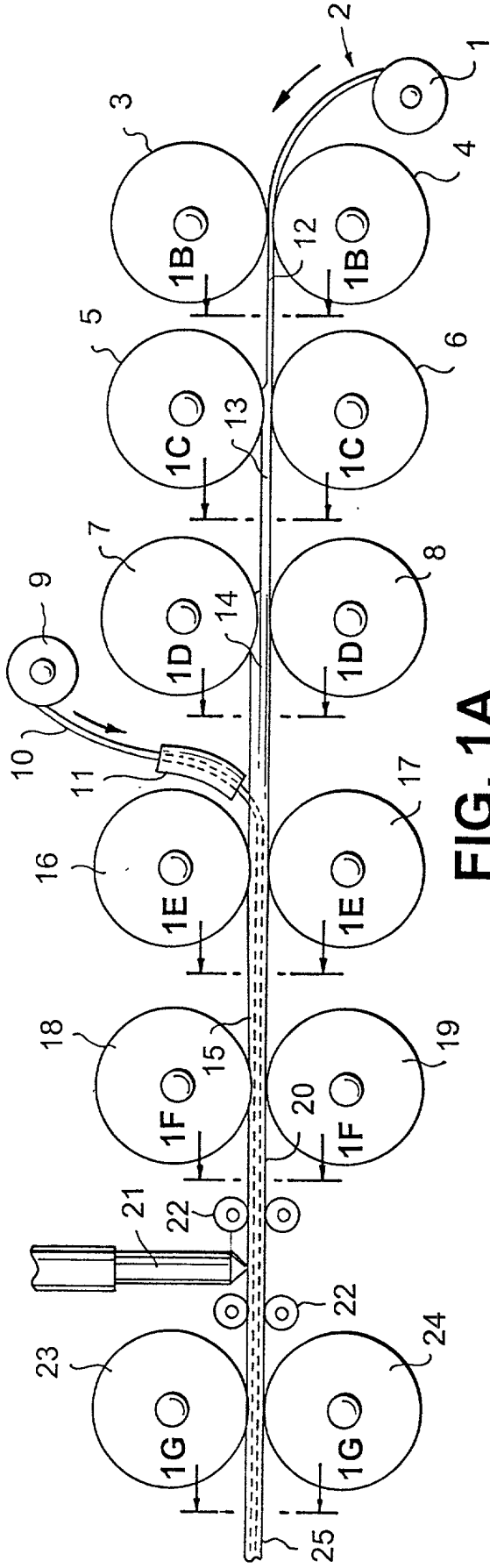


FIG. 1A

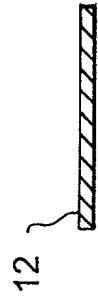


FIG. 1B

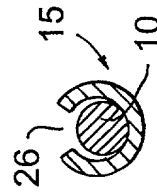


FIG. 1E



FIG. 1C

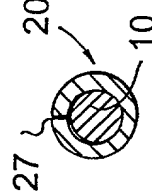


FIG. 1F



FIG. 1D

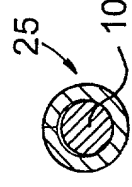


FIG. 1G

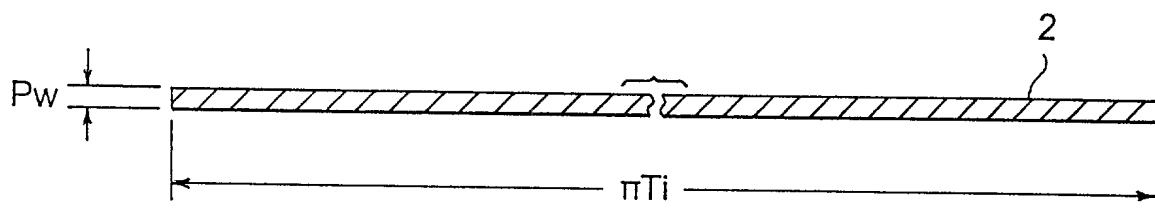


FIG. 2A

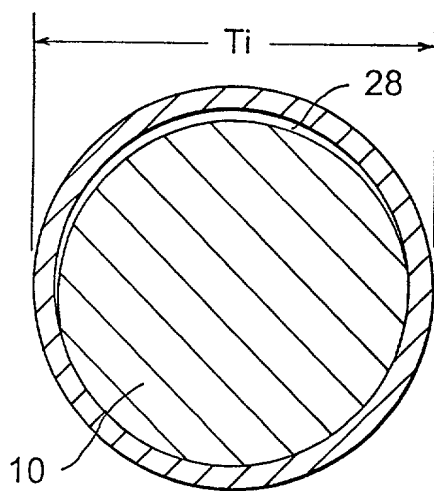


FIG. 2B

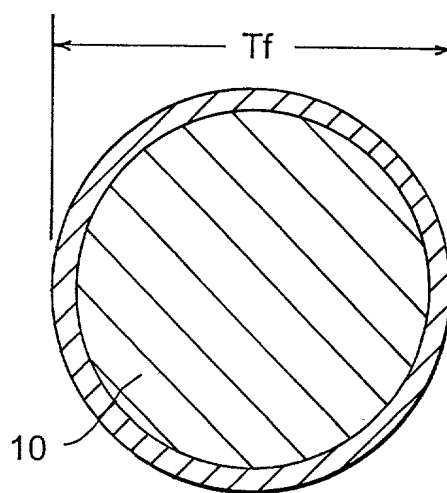


FIG. 2C

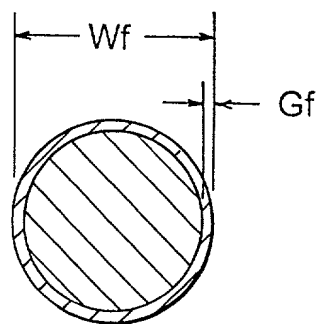


FIG. 2D

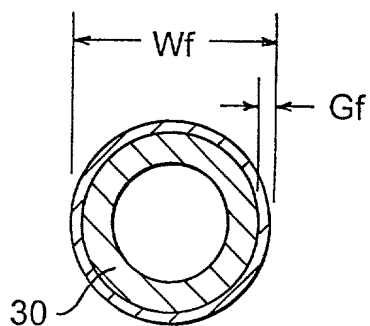
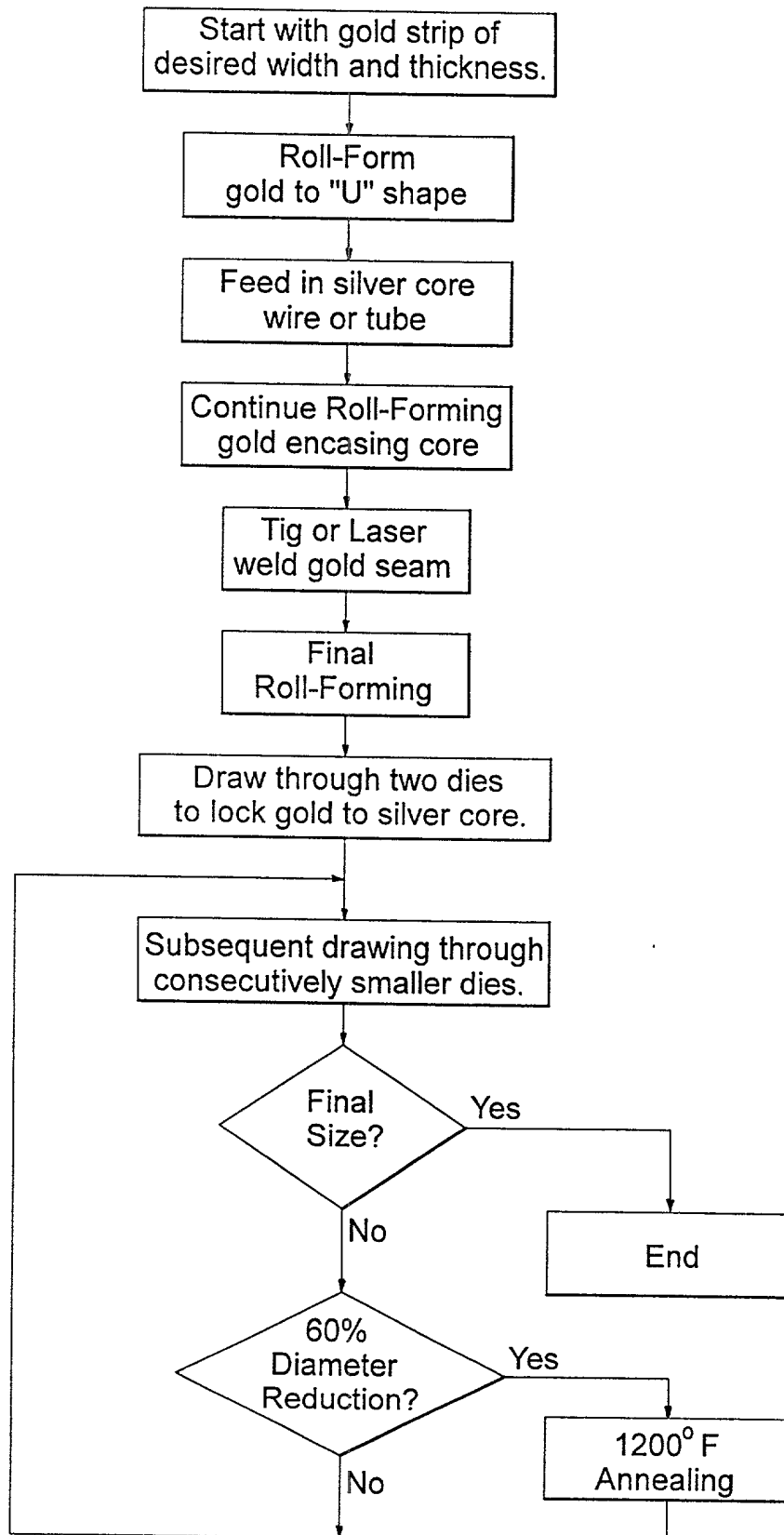


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



ALTERNATIVE PROCESS FLOW CHART

ROLL GOLD PLATE TO DESIRED STARTING THICKNESS

ROLL SILVER PLATE TO DESIRED STARTING THICKNESS

FORM SANDWICH OF GOLD PLATE
SILVER SOLDER LAYER AND SILVER PLATE

CLAMP SANDWICH BETWEEN STEEL PLATES

HEAT IN OVEN TO MELT SILVER SOLDER

ROLL DOWN RESULTING GOLD/SILVER
PLATE TO DESIRED THICKNESS WITH
INTERMITTENT ANNEALING

SLIT PLATE TO DESIRED WIDTH STRIP

FEED STRIP INTO TUBE ROLL FORMING MACHINE

WELD TUBE

SOLID
CORE
DESIRED
?

YES

FEED IN
SOLID SILVER
WIRE

NO

DRAW DOWN TUBE

ANNEAL

FINAL
SIZE
?

NO

DRAW DOWN
TUBE

YES

END

FIGURE 5.

**DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION
CO-PENDING APPLICATION CONTAINING
ADDITIONAL SUBJECT MATTER**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled, **THIN WALLED ATTACHED SILVER FILLED GOLD JEWELRY** the specification of which is herewith attached.

This application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in my earlier filed pending patent applications, Serial No.09/100,726, filed on June 19, 1998.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. d1.56(a). I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	(Yes) (No)

None

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC Sec. 119(e) of any United States provisional applications listed below.

(Number)	(Day/Month/Year filed)
----------	------------------------

None

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Sec. 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status-Patented, Pend, Aban)
--------------------------	---------------	-------------------------------

09/100,726

June 19, 1998

Pending

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint as our attorney, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

ALFRED M. WALKER Reg. No. 29,983

Send correspondence to:

ALFRED M. WALKER
PATENT ATTORNEY
225 Old Country Road
Melville, NY 11747-2712
(631) 361-8737


FULL NAME OF SOLE INVENTOR: Robert Grosz

Citizenship: USA

Residence Address: 22906 Saugus Place 190
Saugus, CA 91350

Post Office Address: Same

DATE: February⁸, 2000


Robert Grosz

declar-cip-sole